

PennAg Industries Association

Serving Agribusiness Since 1878

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Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

*RE: In the Matter of Applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG
for Consent to Assign or Transfer Control of Licenses and Authorizations
(WT Docket No. 11-65)*

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

PennAg strives to provide advocacy to maintain an effective, viable and competitive environment for Pennsylvania agribusiness. In coalition with other organizations, we monitor legislative activities on statewide and national levels, making recommendations for policies that promote a competitive environment for agribusiness, including: animal welfare, food safety, animal health and diagnostics, etc. Among those areas we are most concerned over the next few years is technology, and specifically mobile broadband availability. For this reason, PennAg wholeheartedly backs the planned merger between AT&T and T-Mobile.

Agriculture has played an important part in Pennsylvania's history and is presently one of the largest sectors in our state's economy. Any serious plan for economic recovery needs to address agriculture and find ways to add value to the operations of farmers. After all, modern agriculture is not all tractors and barns – but high-tech operations, processes and procedures.

More widespread mobile broadband access will have a significant positive impact on the agriculture industry. Even today, farmers with high-speed wireless service can use their handheld devices to utilize any number of the revolutionary online applications. From forums discussing industry issues, to reaching out to new markets, to real-time data and information like weather, commodity pricing, soil conditions, GPS, financial news, and so on, a farmer can be in the field working while also conducting activities online and over SMS text or voice service. But to make the most of that, they need expanded access to an advanced, 4G LTE network, and the AT&T/T-Mobile merger offers the most promise in fulfilling that capability.

AT&T plans to invest an additional \$8 billion in the years following the merger's approval –which will improve infrastructure, add value to

Leading the Way

*Working to create and maintain an effective, viable, and competitive environment
for Pennsylvania Agribusiness to grow and prosper.*



businesses across the country, and create jobs. But we would suggest that farmers and the rural communities in which they work and live stand to gain the most. We await your approval of this merger, as an opportunity like this could truly be once-in-a-lifetime.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CHERR', is positioned above the printed name.

Christian R. Herr
Executive Vice President

CC:

Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn